

3/18/2013

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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary,  
Federal Communications Commission,  
Office of the Secretary,  
445 12th St. SW  
Room TW-B204,  
Washington, D.C. 20554

MAR 28 2013

FCC Mail Room

Lorena Thullen  
640 Jonadel Lane NW Cedar Rapids, IA 52405  
**FCC Proceeding: 12-375**

Commissioners and Staff,

The Department of Corrections in numerous states have a long history of charging excessive amounts for inmate phone calls which have resulted in huge profits at the expense of inmates and their families.

In Iowa, the spokesperson for the department, Fred Scaletta, has told us for a number of years that the Department is working on a new contract that will lower the rates. It has never happened.

In addition to this, the current service is very poor. Many of the phones are located outside, making it impossible for prisoners to make calls during bad weather. There are often interruptions in calls and this means that the caller is charged an additional fee to call back.

For many years all calls were collect with the rates very high. Collecting the fees from families, who are often low income, was not always easy. The Department switched to prepaid calls. This means that they are able to collect the fees at the time a call is made with no loss. When the switch was made to prepaid calls the charges went UP. Collect calls were also eliminated so if prisoners don't have money in their accounts they can't make calls.

In a growing number of states, such as our neighbors, Nebraska and Michigan rates are now revenue neutral. This means that the charge is only what it costs to operate the system.

You have the authority to help families of inmates by lowering the amount per minute the companies are able to charge, and a choice in services so maybe that will bring the fees down.

Thank you for looking into this matter."

Sincerely,



Lorena Thullen  
640 Jonadel Lane NW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

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FCC Mail Room

3/21/13

Dear Secretary Dortch,

I am currently housed at Bland Corr. Center in Bland, Va. I was raised in Princeton, WVa, which is some 30 to 40 min. away from Bland.

I caught my charges in Galax, Va on the Carroll County side, which is also around 30 to 40 min. away from Bland. I'm saying this to make my point known.

To call my Family in Princeton, WVa it cost right at \$13.00. Which my family can't afford to pay. So we don't talk on the phone at this point.

To call my family in Carroll County, area cost around \$7.00 a call. So we don't talk either, as times are very hard of late, and getting even harder as time is passing.

Since ATL changed up their system to all prepay. You/our families have to go on line and set up accounts that are already payed. (Prepayed)

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Which you would think would be cheaper to place a call. Which isn't the case at all, it only means that ATL gets all

to. Which really happens alot more than one would think, and then you pay for a reconnect fee all over again, which cost more money.

Most calls that are cut off or disconnected has a recording, "The call was terminated because 3 way was detected." My family has never used or tried to use 3 way while I'm on the phone.

I really don't know what to say about the handicap (deaf) calls. I can say I wish it were easier on their family's as much as I do every other inmates.

I know you are trying to change that, and I pray that you do just that. Not just for my sake, but for those who aren't as lucky or blessed as I have been, and pray to be for the next 5 years and 5 months.

Thank you so much for all you are doing, and may God Bless you in your task.

Thank you and God Bless  
 Hart D. Dumble  
 #1152602

Wc Docket # 12-375

Attn: Sec Dortch

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FCC Mail Room

I am very concerned with The phone injustice in The Corrections Facility in This area. I realize it Takes revenue To operate; however, Families Are encouraged To visit, write, and stay in regular contact with Their loved ones - I Thought rehab was encouraged by DOC. I see hardship imposed on Family members. My son calls me regularly, but I put at least \$50 mo in his acct just for him To make a call. He is charged 90¢ just To use the phone. The facility is in local range, but a call To me is \$4.25 plus The 90¢ - I can call the prison administrator for free (it's local) What's fair about That? IF he calls his sister or son, it's long distance and is over \$20. Families have To pay These costs along with commissary & personal items needed. Remember, most people are low (or no) income! There are other relatives and friends in The local area he could call if The charges were not ridiculous -- so his calls are limited.

How about phone justice with some fairness and common sense?

Thank you for your concern.

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Sincerely,  
Linda W. J. Jany  
965 Rockdale Rd  
Wytheville, VA 24383

lyhagy@yahoo.com

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MAR 28 2013

FCC Mail Room

Ronald Keith Ellis # 1110227  
Bland Correctional Center  
256 Bland Farm Rd.  
Bland, Virginia 24315

Marlene H. Dentch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Comm. 35145  
445 12th Street SW; Room TLW. B204  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear FCC.

In brief. The (GTL) Global Tel Link  
phone system in use at this institution  
charge a ridiculous price for phone call.  
I only get about 17 minutes for \$10.00.  
The cost of these calls limit me to about  
1 call every 3 months. \$10.00 is about  
 $\frac{1}{3}$  of what I earn in an entire month.  
When I want to call I have to prepay  
because this company don't allow collect  
call any longer. I would consider it a  
blessing to be able to call home more  
and free calling time would be awesome.  
My Dad is getting older & in bad health  
and it would be nice to talk more. I hope

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You are able to get us relief from  
the cost of phone calls.

Sincerely  
R. K. Ell.3

Rafael Alicea 616204  
Lakeland Correctional Facility  
Coldwater, MI 49036

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MAR 28 2013

FCC Mail Room

RE: This is a Public Comment for WC Docket Number 12-375

Dear Secretary Dortch,

this letter is in regards to current phone company rates for the Michigan Department of Corrections and your assistance in lowering them.

Costs and Prepaid Accounts-There is a minimum fee of \$10.00 within prison and \$25.00 from outside the prison to be placed on the debit card system in order to purchase phone time. Fewer calls are allowed from placing money on the outside option as opposed to the inside option. As a result of calls still being construed as collect calls and or extra charges. So, it is nominally cheaper when a prisoner can afford to purchase phone time. A difficult task considering the rising price of store costs. Does one purchase items essential to maintaining his hygiene or phone time to speak to family and loved ones? Call Charges-It now cost us .19¢ per minute in state and .23¢ per minute out of state (when prisoners pay) and I am unaware of the exact price of out of the country calls, but have heard it is extremely expensive. Making it very difficult to stay in touch with family and loved ones for those who live outside of the country. The contract prior to this was .10¢ per minute in state and .12¢ per minute out of state. Doubling the price for the same phone call, at the same time the cost of living has increased for everyone involved.. The economy is doing poorly, our families are struggling, and they pay scale for prisoners has not increased in over 20 years. It is a constant and consistent battle from all sides. Phone companies normally have a one rate fee in the free world allowing you to talk all day for less than what we pay for 15 minutes. Dropped Calls-Yes, this unfortunately transpires to. Either from technical difficulties in here by way of prison equipment, accidental touching of buttons on delicate touch screen phones (it is construed as a non-permitted 3-way call), or poor cell phone tower reception it happens on a regular basis. We must either decide to call again or cut our losses depending on the length of the phone call prior to being disconnected and the time remaining that we are allowed to use the phone. Call Frequency-This issue is mainly affected by the cost. We must budget our calls depending on the amount of money one can afford to spend. I personally spend between \$20-\$50 per month. When I receive more money from those who can afford to send it, I spend more on the phone. Especially considering sporadic visits. Free Call-A free phone call periodically would be extremely generous, but big picture it does not affect my future predicament. Those of us incarcerated for decades would prefer affordable phone calls. Although, indigent prisoners would benefit from this. Dissabilities Access-I am not educated enough on this matter to address it.

Your assistance in the above mentioned matter would be deeply and greatly appreciated. Thank you very much for you time.

Respectfully,

*Rafael Alicea* 03/05/13

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their money in advance, so unless family members prepay, or set up accounts now, inmates are left unable to call.

My wife has a cell phone from the Wytheville area, and even though it is a blessing at only \$4.40 a call, it still cost her extra to have the cell phone.

I've been incarcerated for 7 years and 6 to 7 months now, and in that time I've seen things get harder on my loved ones, and GTH, and DOC as well as other Company's keep getting richer.

The saddest part is, "as inmates we don't have options, or the right to choose a provider." The "DOC" sells the rights to a company, and if we are going to talk then "we" are forced to use that provider. "It's cornering the market," if you will.

Free calls for some inmates would be good, and it would help inmates and their families get set up to make calls.

A free call would be nice when a phone call gets cut off or disconnected.



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FCC Mail Room

March 16, 2013

RE: This is a public comment for WC Docket Number 12-375

Dear Secretary North,

I am writing this letter in regards to help lower the cost of prison phone calls.

I am unable to afford to put money on my phone to talk to my family and friends that is incarcerated. So the only time I am able to talk to them is when they are able to have the funds on their account.

The amount they are able to spend is only \$20-\$50 a month. Which does not go very far, due to them having other family to talk to as well. Due to the economy it's a struggle to keep up with everyday bills including the phone. It's very difficult to be able to send our loved ones money to keep up with their daily hygiene and life inside the prison, yet to keep up with anything extra for the phones.

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Unfortunately, we experience many dropped calls, between my cell phone coverage, accidental pressing a button on my touch screen phone, and also from the prison phones as well. Which it leaves

for the prisoner to decide wheather to accept the charges to call back if they have the funds available. If I accidentally press a button on my phone, I am told by a recording that my call is terminated due to them thinking I am making another call during the call I am on with the prisoner.

Free calls would be generous, but I think lowering the phone cost would be even more helpful and generous. Especially for the prisoners that are incarcerated for a long period of time.

I hope this will help not only the prisoners to be able to connect with their loved ones easier, but for the loved ones on the outside to find it easier to stay connected with the loved one that is incarcerated.

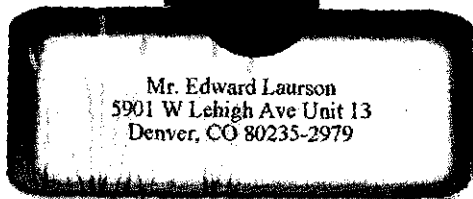
Thank you for taking your time and reading my letter and taking my experience and opinion to an open thought. Have a wonderful day.

Regards.

Aria Fitch

Aria Fitch / PO BOX 431293 Pontiac MI 48343 / 248-579-7471

From



gglaurson@msa.com

Received & Inspected

MAR 28 2013

FCC Mail Room

FCC Rulemaking number 12-375

Phone calls throughout Americas  
prison system have been outrageous gouging.  
In Colorado we paid a collect charge of  
\$7.80 for 20 minutes for years. Now it is  
less yet still too high. Inmate only receive  
\$4.20 a month to live on so they can't afford to  
call either. Even though phone calls are vital  
to our well being we had to limit them to  
once every other month.

Thank you

Ed + bail Laurson

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